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GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEWS

Beginning with this number the minor bibliographical entries will be omitted from the department heretofore known as "Geographical Publications", and only reviews will be published under the correspondingly changed heading of "Geographical Reviews." The omitted entries, with references to the reviews here published, will be gathered together and issued as an annual volume which will record the geographical publications that have come to the Society's notice during the year. This annual bibliography will be sent free to all institutions or individuals exchanging publications with the Society or subscribing to the Review and, on request, to Fellows who may desire it. The first issue, it is expected, will appear early in 1921.

OUR IMMIGRATION PROBLEM

J. W. JENKS AND W. J. LAUCK. **The Immigration Problem: A Study of American Immigration Conditions and Needs.** 4th edit., revised and enlarged. xxv and 605 pp.; map, diagrs., bibliogr., index. Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York and London, 1917. \$1.75. 8 x 5½ inches.

The value of this book is attested by its appearing in a fourth edition. It stands alone in the field of immigration literature, being the only comprehensive and authoritative presentation of the findings of the United States Immigration Commission in condensed and accessible form.

The Immigration Commission came into being through a peculiar freak of legislation. During the summer of 1906 the House was debating an immigration bill which contained as one of its major features a provision for the imposition of a reading test on would-be immigrants. This proposed measure had been before Congress pretty continuously for fifteen years or so, and, while for most of that period the preponderance of sentiment in both houses had been decidedly in its favor, yet through the various exigencies of Federal legislation it had never become law. At the date mentioned there was no question that ample majorities of Senate and House were in favor of the literacy test. Speaker Cannon, however, was vehemently opposed to it and by tactics more vigorous than parliamentary placed obstacle after obstacle in its way. Finally, on June 25, Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio proposed an amendment which struck out the entire section providing for a literacy test and in its place substituted a section creating an Immigration Commission. In this form the bill passed, and early the following year the Commission was appointed by President Roosevelt.

This piece of political legerdemain was by no means unfortunate. In the first place, the Immigration Commission proved to be one of the most scholarly and useful commissions Congress had ever created. In the second place, with delightful irony, one of its major recommendations was that a literacy test be imposed, and it was largely upon this recommendation that the test became law ten years later.

The Immigration Commission was composed of three Senators, three Representatives, and three civilians, and its total working staff considerably exceeded one hundred. It spent nearly three years in its investigation, when its career was abruptly terminated by the refusal of Congress to make any further appropriations for it. Here again the result was not unfortunate. A very thorough and sweeping research had been made, covering not only this country but the European sources of immigration; but the material had not been thoroughly digested by the Commission, nor had conclusions been worked out in detail and completeness. As a consequence the published report consists almost entirely of facts and figures, with very little space devoted to the statement of the Commission's own conclusions and recommendations. Students of the subject, therefore, are forced to go to the original data in support of their arguments, which is much better than quoting the opinions of an official body, however trustworthy.

The report of the Commission comprises forty volumes. It was very difficult to secure the work at the time of its publication, and it is practically unobtainable now. Only the best equipped even of our large libraries possess it. It is accordingly very important that a trustworthy digest should be available. Professor Jenks and Mr. Lauck are particularly well fitted to supply such a need, the former having been a member of the Commission and the latter one of its important experts. The authors describe themselves as "not advocates, but interpreters of facts." It need hardly be added that in their discussions they have not confined themselves absolutely to the data contained in the report of the Commission.

In the present edition the discussions have been brought up to date, particularly by the inclusion of a chapter on the immigration law of 1917 prepared by Mr. W. W. Husband, the full text of this bill, a presentation of the plan proposed by Dr. Sidney L. Gulick, a brief bibliography, and numerous additional diagrams and figures.

HENRY P. FAIRCHILD

J. F. STEINER. *The Japanese Invasion: A Study in the Psychology of Inter-Racial Contacts.* With an introduction by R. E. Park. xvii and 231 pp.; bibliogr., index. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1917. \$1.25. 7½ x 5 inches.

This little volume may be heartily commended to those who desire to understand the problem of Japanese immigration into the United States. The importance of that problem does not appear to be realized in some parts of our country; its complicated character is still less appreciated.

Dr. Steiner was for some years a resident of Japan, as a teacher in a mission college at Sendai, and was able to study the economic and social conditions there at first hand. Japanese sentiment therefore is treated sympathetically and fairly, and this gives added weight to the conclusion at which the author arrives.

There are four angles from which the problem must be approached—the economic, the racial, the social, and the political. There is a tendency in the United States to treat it as though it were essentially, if not wholly, an economic one. The economic phase is indeed a very important one. Overpopulated Japan with low wages and low standards of living for her laborers thrusts a portion of them out to seek for new homes in other lands where better conditions prevail. The most attractive conditions are found in Australia, South America, Canada, and the United States; but upon reaching these countries the Japanese meet with the opposition of the labor unions. This opposition, which is based upon economic grounds, is strongly re-enforced, as Dr. Steiner points out, by the racial prejudice which springs up quite naturally when such dissimilar types as the Japanese and the white man are brought into contact. The author calls attention, too, to a fact often overlooked, that this prejudice exists in the Japanese as well as in the American.

Dr. Steiner reminds us that "during the negotiations at Washington in 1913 between Viscount Chinda and the Federal Government concerning the California alien land law, the Japanese ambassador was given repeated assurances by both the President and the Secretary of State that the enactment was based on purely economic considerations and was not the outcome of racial prejudice." Dr. Steiner does not believe that such declarations convince anybody, least of all the Japanese, that race prejudice "has played such an insignificant part in the American-Japanese problem." In another paragraph he says: "Nothing is gained by ignoring the racial aspects of the question as is now the tendency in some quarters." In this statement we believe he is quite correct.

Among the more intelligent classes in both countries, it is true, there is but little of race prejudice. Many persons seem to be entirely free from it. Both governments have striven consistently to maintain the traditional friendship; the merchants, too, of both countries seek to remove this prejudice. It is, however, an unreasoning sentiment that springs too naturally to be easily eradicated from the mind of the ordinary man.

Dr. Steiner quotes from two well-known friends of the Japanese to show how real this prejudice is on the part of the Japanese. From Professor Ladd is the following: "Among the people of all classes, uninformed, unreasoning feeling towards all foreigners still underlies the crust of enforced or selfish and conventional politeness." From Dr. Gulick is this: "Few foreigners have received a hearty welcome from the people at large. They are suspected and hated; as little room as possible is made for them. The less of their presence and advice the better."

Professor Ladd's statement was written in 1895, that of Dr. Gulick in 1905. Dr. Steiner says: "That these statements are even today not wide of the mark can be verified by anyone who has an intimate knowledge of the life of the Japanese people."

This prejudice on the part of both peoples is shown clearly in their attitude towards inter-racial marriage, decidedly frowned upon by both. The American wife of a Japanese husband and the Japanese wife of an American husband both suffer from social ostracism. The few exceptions serve to emphasize the rule, and the unfortunate Eurasian child is disliked in Japan both by Japanese and by Europeans.

Thus social problems also arise out of the immigration problem. But that of inter-racial marriage is not the only one. Neither is it the principal one. When the Japanese immigrant meets with a chilly reception in the United States, he is driven by this prejudice to limit his social intercourse as far as possible to his fellow countrymen. Thus in California the Japanese farmers, gardeners, and laborers tend to segregate themselves and form separate communities. This is inimical to the social healthfulness of the state. These immigrants thus living apart make little or no progress in knowledge of the language, customs, and ideals of their American neighbors. They establish schools

where instruction is given in the Japanese language, and loyalty is inculcated not to the state in which they reside but to the mikado over the sea. The nineteen Buddhist temples which they support in California still further strengthen the ties with the homeland and widen the breach between them and the people among whom they dwell.

From this condition of affairs there arises a political problem with which Dr. Steiner does not deal. The American-born children of Japanese parents are, according to American law, citizens of the United States; but in Japanese law they are subjects of the mikado and as loyal subjects must go home for military instruction, which many of them do when they arrive at the proper age. Growing up in such an environment as has just been described and trained to love supremely and to defend the island empire in the Orient, how can it be expected that they will make good citizens of the United States? Under a more hospitable reception the results would no doubt be quite different. It must be remembered, however, that the masses of the Japanese immigrants in California are not of the cultured classes but come from the rural districts, where ignorance and conservatism prevail.

What is the solution of the problem thus outlined? Dr. Steiner reviews the measures taken by the governments and proposed by others but does not find them satisfactory. It is not so clearly understood as it should be that there is no convention absolutely excluding Japanese laborers from the United States. The "gentleman's agreement" is an informal arrangement, in which Japan undertakes not to issue to laborers, with certain exceptions, passports for the United States.

Among those who have already come in large numbers into this country are farmers and gardeners. That they are skillful, industrious, and law-abiding none can deny, but this does not make them welcome to those who must compete with them and who are unwilling to toil as unceasingly as the Japanese laborer, deprive themselves as he does of recreation, or adopt his standard of comfort.

Of Dr. Gulick's proposal that a general immigration law be enacted limiting the incoming of immigrants from any country to a certain per cent, say 5 per cent, of the number of native-born of the first generation, together with the number of naturalized citizens of that race in the United States at the time of the national census next preceding, Dr. Steiner says: "While such a law theoretically seems adapted to meet the present situation, it is such a radical departure from our traditional policy concerning European immigration that it is doubtful if in the near future it would receive the support of the American public." Dr. Steiner does not think that it would please the Japanese either, "who, to all practical intents and purposes, even if not theoretically, would be discriminated against."

In Dr. Steiner's opinion the first step to be taken towards a solution of the problem is to recognize frankly the racial factors involved. The next is to induce the Japanese to "see the wisdom of permitting only the best representatives of their race to come to America." This will enable the peoples of the two countries to meet under circumstances "the most favorable for a mutual appreciation of each other's character." Mutual patience and forbearance are necessary, and the problem "must be worked out by a gradual process which it may take generations to complete."

"Nothing," the author says, "is more fraught with peril than the continuance of our present half-hearted and irresolute policy toward the Far East."

E. T. WILLIAMS

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF NORTHWESTERN AMAZON BASIN

P. P. BAUER. **NW-Amazonien: Ein Beitrag zur Geographie Äquatorial-Amerikas.** xiv and 107 pp.; map, diags., ill., bibliogr. Rudolf M. Rohrer, Brünn, 1919. 9 x 6 inches.

Dr. Bauer, Moravian by birth, was a member of Dr. Hamilton Rice's expedition of 1912-13 to the region between the branches of the Amazon and the Orinoco and gave special attention to geology and topography. His present report opens with a bibliography of the region, which is followed by a 20-page review of previous explorations and a 10-page summary of relations to the rest of South America. Then come 30 pages on structure and form of northwestern Amazonia, 14 on its hydrography, and 25 on its climate. The region thus treated lies chiefly between the equator and latitude 4° N., or between the Yapura branch of the Amazon and the Guaviare branch of the Orinoco; it stretches about 350 miles eastward from the folded and deeply dissected ranges of the Andes to the tableland of Guiana, which is formed of from 600 to 1,500 meters of horizontal sandstones lying on a relatively even foundation of crystalline rocks.

The piedmont belt in the west, occupied by heavy deposits of coarse detritus actively outwashed from the mountains, is followed by gently east-sloping upland plains, known as the Mesas of Pardaos and of Iguaje, seldom over 500 meters in altitude, composed of heavy pervious sandstones mostly without tree growth in spite of abundant rainfall.